

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the title on page one please insert the following:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application ~~09/038,781~~ ^{new U.S. Patent 6,224,486} filed February 24, 1998, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 08/635,576 ^{new U.S. Patent 5,779,549} filed April 22, 1996, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-104.

Add new claims 105-123 as follows.

105. A method of conducting a distributed electronic tournament for a plurality of players, comprising:
 exchanging information between a central controller and a player located remotely from the central controller, the information (i) being exchanged while the player plays a game in the tournament and (ii) influencing game play; and
 storing in a database player information associated with the player, the stored player information being available for use in a subsequent tournament.

106. The method of claim 105, wherein the stored player information comprises at least one of: (i) a player name, (ii) a player address, (iii) a player age, (iv) a player sex, (v) a player preference, (vi) billing information, (vii) a tournament format, (viii) a start time, (ix) a stop time, (x) opponent information, and (xi) a language.

107. The method of claim 105, wherein the game comprises a game of skill.

108. The method of claim 105, further comprising:
 arranging for the player to provide payment of an entry fee.